

ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASS'N COIN DIGEST



Your Steadfast Hobby Guardian

The travel was time-consuming.
Room and board was expensive.
And corporate benefits were
intangible. Yet, when Chet Krause
and Numismatic News were asked
to testify at the Olympic coinage
hearings, they jumped at the
chance to represent your hobby
interests.

Before the smoke cleared, Chet
and company testified on three
separate occasions.



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**There, ready and willing
to take a stand when our
hobby welfare is on the line.**

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ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION'S COIN DIGEST ADVERTISING RATES

	MEMBERS		NON-MEMBERS	
	Per Issue	Year	Per Issue	Year
Page	\$25.00	\$22.50	\$27.00	\$25.00
½ Page	13.50	12.00	15.00	13.50
¼ Page	8.00	7.25	8.90	8.00
1/8 Page	4.50	4.00	5.00	4.50

Immediate payment deduct 5% from rate.

PERMANENT COIN CLUB SHOW DATES

SHOW CHAIRMAN: EDWARD VOSS

**Member Clubs: Please check this listing before scheduling
your next show! Send listings to Show Chairman EARLY!**

February — 2nd Sunday: Rantoul Coin Club, Rantoul

February — 4th Sunday: Gibson City Coin Club, Gibson City

March — 1st Sunday: Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club, Watseka

March — 2nd weekend: Dupo Coin Club, Fairview Heights

March — 3rd Sunday: Freeport Coin Club, Freeport

March — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee

April — Last weekend (two days): Mattoon Coin Club, Mattoon

April — Last Saturday: Corn Belt Coin Club, Bloomington

September — Last Sunday: Fairfield

October — 1st Saturday: Corn Belt Coin Club, Bloomington

**October — 2nd Sunday: Viking Club of Moline,
1450 First Street, Moline, Illinois 61265**

October — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee

October — 3rd Sunday: McHenry County Coin Club, Crystal Lake

October — 4th Sunday: Hoopeston Coin Club, Hoopeston

November — 1st Sunday: Champaign-Urbana Coin Club, Urbana

November — 1st Sunday: Dixon Coin Club, Dixon

November — 1st Sunday: Centralia Coin Club, Centralia

November — 2nd Sunday: Aurora Coin Club, Aurora

HELLO

Welcome to the Spring, 1983 issue of the IL.N.A. COIN DIGEST. As you may or may not know, with this issue we are saying good-bye to LeRoy J. Kaczor as editor. We would like to thank him for the fine job he did and wish him well in the future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the board of IL.N.A. for letting us try our hand at editing the DIGEST. If you have any comments, good or bad, on what we can do to make the DIGEST more interesting, let us know. We will try our best to please you, but we need to know what you want.

Mark, Dale, and Mike

WILL COUNTY COIN CLUB
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW
VFW CANTIGNY POST 367
SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1983

—PRIZES—

1st — \$ 5.00 Gold Piece

2nd — \$100.00 Cash

3rd — \$50.00 Cash

4th — Unc. Silver Dollar

5th — 1982 Proof Set

Drawing: 5:00 p.m.

Joliet, Illinois

EDITORIAL

Warning: *Grading* may be hazardous to your hobby!

By Mark Wieclaw

It seems that no matter which coin publication you read these days there is at least one article on the subject of grading. Why is there a problem, and can anything be done to solve it?

Most disagreements tend to be centered on coins in grades MS 63 through 67. Since the price ranges on these grades can be thousands of dollars, it is necessary to find a solution as quickly as possible. Having no wear, an uncirculated coin's value is based on the eye appeal or appearance of the coin. At this point, it's virtually impossible to put in writing the specific criteria needed for each grade. We all know that no two coins are identical and no two people see a coin exactly the same.

One solution would be to drop all mint state grades in favor of just one uncirculated grade, leaving only the price to disagree on. Another answer would be to collect only circulated coins. Just because the experts stress buying the best quality coins you can afford doesn't mean you have to follow their advice. After all, the experts are also coin dealers that depend on you to spend your money in their places of business.

With grading getting stricter and more ads selling full bell lines, full steps, full head, and full split bands, where will it all end? Another hobby that is being affected by grading is beer can collecting. When I first began collecting cans ten years ago, the grading system was simple. Grade 1 was equivalent to mint state, with grades 2-5 ranging from EF-G in numismatic terms. Today one person's system has grade 1 divided into five grades. The lowest is grade 1 minus; described as an ugly can, but still displayable. Then he says that there is no need to describe any lower grades as he does not handle them.

If dealers in any hobby can convince the public that anything less than mint state isn't worth having, collectors will be forced out of hobbies and only investors will remain.

The bottom line is: "If it pleases you and the price is right, buy it." Don't worry about what anybody else thinks. Besides, in a world that's filled with unemployment, war, disease, murder and starvation, doesn't it seem trivial to get so upset about buying an overgraded coin.

Anyone that can wake up each morning in good health and have peace of mind should count their blessings and thank God. There are a lot of people in the world that wish their biggest problem would be getting a properly graded coin.

ROMAN HISTORY

192 A.D. — 217 A.D.

By Dale Lukanich

The murder of Commodus in 192 A.D. left a vacuum hard to fill, for he was the last of an imperial line which extended back, without violence or interruption, as far as any man could remember. There was no dynastic successor. Although the formal choice of an emperor lay with the senate, the actual choice lay with the army, which invited P. Helvius Pertinax, an elderly and upright senator, imbued with all the proper constitutional ideas, to assume the burden. Pertinax lasted only three months, having failed to satisfy the hopes of the praetorian guards. The praetorians then literally auctioned the empire, which went to Didius Julianus upon his offer of 6250 denarii a man. Julianus lasted for only two months. Public reaction to events was hostile, and a call went out to Pescennius Niger, the respected governor of Syria whose legions proclaimed him emperor. Meanwhile Septimus Severus, governor of the much nearer Upper Pannonia acted for himself.

After securing Rome, Severus turned his attention to his rival in the East. Severus defeated Niger's troops at Issus in 194. Niger escaped and fled towards Euphrates but was overtaken and executed. In order to keep the West quiet, he named Clodius Albinus (governor of Britain) Caesar. However, as soon as Italy and the East were under his control Severus declared Albinus a public enemy and sent out troops to defeat him. A great battle was fought at Lugdunum (Lyons) and on February 19, 197 A.D., Albinus's troops were defeated. At the defeat of his troops Albinus committed suicide, his wife and children were put to death, and their bodies were thrown in the Rhone River.

Severus was now sole emperor and returned to Rome a hero. The Government he imposed on Rome was nothing less than a military dictatorship based entirely on the power of his reign in campaigning in different parts of the Empire and also visiting many of the provinces. In order to keep his troops in hand he raised their pay from 300 to 500 denarii which resulted in heavy burdens on the state. Finding the treasury nearly empty, he sent out soldiers as policemen to search households for political suspects and stripped them of their possessions. To add to the trouble of the commercial class, he debased the silver denarii and started Rome on a disastrous policy of inflation.

In 210 he went to Britain to put down an uprising by British tribes. The strains of this campaign, however, proved too much for the old emperor and at the age of 64, he died at Eboracum (York). He died in the presence of his Syrian princess wife Julia Domna, and his two sons, Caracalla and Geta. As he was dying he instructed his sons, "be united, enrich the soldiers, and scorn the rest."

A power struggle took place and the empire was divided under joint rule. Caracalla ruled Europe and North Africa, while the Asiatic provinces and Egypt went to Geta. The two men were under no illusion as to each other's intentions, and they took their precautions accordingly; Caracalla was far more cunning than his brother. Geta was persuaded to meet his brother at their mother's apartment in the palace, where Caracalla, by pretending a desire for reconciliation, had induced Julia to call them together. Centurions whom he had instructed, entered the apartment; Geta ran to escape but was caught and stabbed; he died in his mother's arms. If any of the frontier armies were inclined to show hostility to Caracalla, they soon thought better of it. In Italy the Alban legion threatened trouble for a moment, but was quieted by a promise of increase in pay. The senate could do nothing but accept Caracalla's story of a plot formed against him by Geta, and named him sole emperor. To celebrate his escape from this alleged plot, he issued an edict of amnesty in favor of all who, for whatever reason, had been condemned to exile. Geta's associates, and many who were merely suspected of looking upon his death with disfavor, were treated as his accomplices and put to death. Geta's name was ordered erased from all monuments, and the surviving inscriptions of the period testify by their mutilation to the rigor with which the order was executed.

Caracalla took on the blunt speech and dress habits of a common soldier and instituted a much stricter military rule. "No one should have money but myself," he is reported to have said, "and I must have it to give to my soldiers." Caracalla raised the pay of the soldiers from 500 to 750 denarii. This increase of 50% in pay of the soldiers, along with the frequent donatives with which Caracalla indulged them soon turned the treasury which Severus had left from a surplus to a deficit. He followed in his father's footsteps of depreciating the denarii. Caracalla also added a new coin, the Antoninianus, which was to be rated at two denarii but only weighed 1½ times as much. To help pay his armies Caracalla doubled the taxes. Since its imposition by Augustus the duty on inheritances had only to be paid by Roman citizens. Caracalla put out a proclamation declaring everyone who lived in Rome a citizen, thus everyone was subject to this tax. On April 8, 217, Caracalla was assassinated by Macrinus who was the head of the praetorian guard. Macrinus was named Augustus by his troops on April 11, 217.

Julia, his mother freed but supported her son, considered her position hopeless and committed suicide by a voluntary abstinence from food after hearing of her son's death.

In this short 25-year span of history, we have seen eight emperors, the debasing of a government's coinage, and what many feel was the start of the fall of the Roman Empire. The Empire continued to decline for approximately 300 years. This case was not unique to Roman history. From 37 B.C. to 518 A.D. less than 20 emperors died of natural causes.

The short history lesson that I have presented is to the best of my knowledge true. In some instances the reference books used gave a different

version of the same happening. I left out such differences and stayed with the stories that concurred throughout my reference works.

I would like to thank Harlan J. Berk for the use of his library, and also the College of St. Francis and the Joliet Public Libraries for their help.



Commodus
L. Aelius Aurelius Commodus

Born in A.D. 161 he believed himself to be the reincarnation of Hercules and demanded to be worshipped by the people. After numerous unsuccessful plots against his life, he was murdered on the night of December 31, A.D. 192.



Pertinax
P. Helvius Pertinax

Pertinax reluctantly accepted the throne, and on March 28th he was murdered in the palace after a reign of only 86 days.



Didius Julianus
M. Didius Julianus

After the murder of Pertinax, the praetorian guards publicly announced that they would elect as emperor the man who would pay the highest price. Didus Julianus paid 6250 denarii per man and was declared emperor. On June 2nd he was beheaded after a short 66-day reign.



Pescennius Niger
C. Pescennius Niger

Niger had a long career in the Roman army. After the murder of Pertinax he was proclaimed emperor by his troops. Severus's army defeated Niger's troops and beheaded Niger and his family in A.D. 194.



Clodius Albinus
Decimus Clodius Septimius Albinus

Born in Africa Albinus entered the army at an early age to keep the West quiet. Severus offered him title of Caesar which he accepted. In 195 A.D.

Severus wanted to be sole emperor and declared Albinus a public enemy. In 197 after his troops were defeated, Albinus committed suicide. His body, along with his wife and children who were put to death, was thrown in the Rhone River.



Septimius Severus
Lucius Septimus Severus

Severus was an outstanding soldier, well loved and respected by his men. A tribute to Severus may lay in the fact that he was the only emperor to die of natural causes in this 25-year period.



Geta
L. Septimius Geta

The younger son of Julia Domna and Severus Geta received joint-rule with his older brother Caracalla only to be murdered by him 12 months later.



Caracalla
M. Aurelius Antoninus

Caracalla was originally named Bassianus. He was given the rank of Caesar at the age of ten. At the age of 22 he led a military expedition to Britain. Caracalla had his brother murdered in 212 to attain sole rule of Rome. The name "Caracalla" by which this emperor is commonly known, was a nickname derived from the long tunic of Gallic origin which he adopted as his favorite dress.



Macrinus
Marcus Opelius Macrinus

Macrinus became head of the praetorian guard under Caracalla, and also took part in plotting Caracalla's murder on April 8, 217. On April 11, 217, Macrinus was saluted Augustus by his troops.

A.N.A.
I.N.S.
C.S.N.S.



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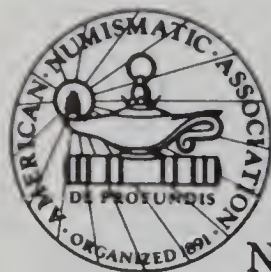
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GUIDELINES

NATIONAL COIN WEEK • APRIL 17 - 23, 1983

What better way to reacquaint yourself and non-collectors with our Nation's illustrious past than through the study of those miniature chroniclers of history--coins. Sponsored annually by the American Numismatic Association since 1925, National Coin Week serves to familiarize the non-collecting public with the fascinating hobby of numismatics.

Every coin, token or piece of paper money has a story to tell and a history to explore. In promoting the observance of National Coin Week 1983, EXPLORING OUR PROUD HERITAGE, the American Numismatic Association is stressing the potential for learning. Those who have experienced the genuine pleasures of coin collecting should educate others during National Coin Week, APRIL 17-23, 1983.

Publicity is the key to National Coin Week success. A club committee might be formed to coordinate National Coin Week observance with your town or city management. Contact local service clubs, asking if they would like to hear an interesting program about numismatics. Call upon your radio and television stations and regional newspapers, informing them of your upcoming displays, lectures and shows. Visit your local museum or historical society and offer to place an exhibit that depicts the numismatic heritage of your area. Initiate a program whereby the public can call or bring in questions regarding coins, tokens or paper money.

Any individual, club or organization can participate in National Coin Week. All participants are invited to share their ideas about National Coin Week by submitting a FINAL REPORT to the NCW chairman. If possible, include samples of bulletins and posters, photographs, and descriptions of special activities such as shows, lectures and exhibits. Reports should be sent to Leslie A. Winners, NCW Chairman, P.O. Box 212, Pineville, LA 71360.

The ANA will send an NCW PROMOTIONAL PACKET to any individual, club or organization requesting information about National Coin Week. Packets for individual members will contain two posters, five booster buttons, ten booster logos and one each of Guidelines and Final Report Forms. Club packets will contain five posters, ten booster buttons, twenty booster logos and two each of Guidelines and Final Report Forms. All promotional packets will include assorted ANA literature and additional offers for NCW material. Extra booster buttons may be ordered at cost for 5¢ each; orders for additional posters, logos and literature will be sent free of charge. All requests for National Coin Week materials should be addressed to National Coin Week 1983, P.O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2366.

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION will be prepared and forwarded to you for those individuals and organizations designated by you as aiding your efforts for National Coin Week. Please include a list of recipients with your FINAL REPORT.

Exploring Our Proud Heritage

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IN THE

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SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Zip Code

Date and Birth Year

Occupation

Numismatic Specialty

Signature of Applicant

List local Coin Club you are a member of.

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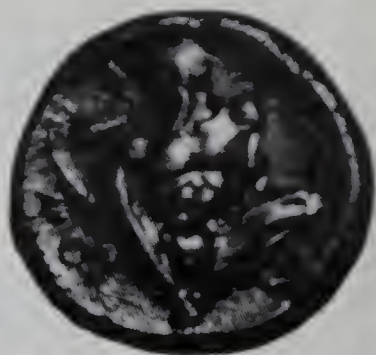
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A collection of various international coins and medals. The central piece is a large circular medal from the Republic of Central America, dated 1881, featuring a sunburst design. To its left is a circular medal from the 1887 Queen Victoria Jubilee, showing a profile of Queen Victoria. Below that is a circular medal from Prince Edward Island, dated 1887, featuring a profile of a man. To the right of the central medal is a circular medal from the Argentine Republic, dated 1902, featuring a profile of a man. Above the central medal is a circular medal from the 1887 Queen Victoria Jubilee, showing a profile of Queen Victoria. Below the central medal is a circular medal from the 1887 Queen Victoria Jubilee, showing a profile of Queen Victoria. To the right of the central medal is a circular medal from the 1887 Queen Victoria Jubilee, showing a profile of Queen Victoria. Below the central medal is a circular medal from the 1887 Queen Victoria Jubilee, showing a profile of Queen Victoria.

A collection of seven US coins, including a large eagle coin, a large profile coin, and several smaller coins, arranged in a cluster. The coins are black and white, showing various designs and inscriptions. The largest coin on the left features an eagle with spread wings and the text "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "IN GOD WE TRUST". The coin on the top right shows a profile of a man with the text "LIBERTY" and "1797". The coin on the bottom right shows a profile of a man with the text "LIBERTY" and "1893". The other coins are smaller and show various designs, including a profile of a man and a woman.

Harlan Berk
Joe Lyons

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Illinois Numismatic Ass'n
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